(b) Preservation of Freshwater Ecosystem; and

(c) Initiating new programmes.

Through out the year, different programmes on the objectives will be taken up in different parts of the country, Water being a state subject, the State Governments have been requested to take up similar activities in the respective States with their own resources.

(c) and (d) No Specific scheme has been formulated to be taken up during the year for water harvesting under the programme. However, Central Ground Water Board under its activity has prepared a scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting at an estimated cost of Rs. 3000 crores in the first phase proposed to be implemented during the X Plan period. The scheme is proposed to be implemented in identified areas of various States, particularly in over exploited and Dark blocks, drought prone and water scarcity areas, coastal areas and islands affected by saline water ingress, areas of inland salinity, urban areas showing steep decline in ground water levels and in sub-mountainous/hilly areas of the country. The scheme envisages construction of about 81990 ground water recharge and rainwater harvesting structures which are expected to make available 3943.5 million cubic meter of water for recharge to ground water.

Second Generation Economic Reforms

*295. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have embarked upon the implementation of second generation reforms in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the vigorous implementation of economic reforms has not yielded any promise to the youth of the country be way of growth in the employment opportunities;

(c) if so, the reasons for the joblessness; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to make the economic growth a promising one for the million of unemployed youth of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Economic reforms are a continuous

process. Various economic reforms measures have been taken by the Government since 1991 aimed at accelerating economic growth, facilitating greater investment, enhancing competitive spirit, reducing level of poverty, generation enhanced employment opportunities, allowing higher private initiative and achieving great intergration with the world economy. Reforms have resulted in improved growth of the economy, a lower rate of inflation, an overall increase in flows of foreign direct investment, a significant improvement in the balance of payments position, accumulation of comfortable foreign exchange reserves and an all round improvement in the external debt indicators.

Economic reforms are meant to make Indian Industry efficient, cost effective and competitive. Therefore, these reforms will have positive impact on overall economic growth and employment in the medium and long run by way of encouraging efficiency, productivity and ensuring achievement of full growth potential.

Priority Sector Lending

*296. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1992 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 2002 and state:

(a) the total amount advanced by the Nationalized Banks during the last three years, year-wise and the percentage of this amount advanced to the priority sector during the same period; and

(b) the percentage of the amount earmarked for agricultural and other existing priority sectors as against the revised 'Priority Sector'?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As reported by RBI, the aggregate net Bank credit and outstanding advances to priority sector of public sector Banks as on the last reporting Friday of March 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as under: